

justice in 1789 but resigned in 1791 to become chief justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court. In 1795, President Washington nominated Rutledge to be chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, but the Senate failed to confirm him. *DAB*, s.v. "Rutledge, John"; *BDC*, s.v. "Rutledge, John."

<sup>4</sup>Oliver Ellsworth, previously identified, and William Samuel Johnson (1727-1819) of Connecticut. Johnson served in the Continental Congress (1785-1787), as a delegate to the 1787 constitutional convention, and in the U.S. Senate (1789-1791). He was also the first president of Columbia College in New York (1787-1800). *BDC*, s.v. "Johnson, William Samuel."

*From Archibald Maclaine*

Wilmington 9th. December 1789

Dear Sir

I lament that I have it not in my power to inform you who is our Governor; who the second Senator to the United States, and at what time we shall have an election for representatives. The last information we had was, that Martin was within one vote of being elected Governor, and that the senator would be either Blount or Hawkins;—Lenoir losing ground every day<sup>1</sup>

I suppose you will have Mr. Johnston with you before this gets to your hands—I find he will have numberless applications for the few offices to be distributed in North Carolina—Present my compliments to him, and let him know that I have nothing to ask for myself, unless he could procure me a rich sinecure, for I am not fit for anything else, and I despair of any such being established in my time, though I believe the Anties /with all their patriotism/ would lick their lips, if such a prospect should be held out to them.

What would you think of being the district Judge? Or could you make more by practicing in the federal courts? We have a great lack of men to fill law departments. As Mr. Hay is a young man, and capable of great application, I have thought it might be for his advantage, if he could procure the appointment, to be the Attorney for the district; though I do not find that there is any salary annexed to the office—What I am particularly anxious about is the Judge, and I wish to hear from you on the subject

I have seen the Choice, which I have read over very lightly—The hero of the piece is represented in a detestable as well as /in/ a ludicrous light—The allusions are sometimes happy, and the author has in a few instances expressed himself in a pleasing manner In one or two places he is disgusting, and the lines do not deserve the name of poetry It is upon the whole a miserable hotch-pot, and has nothing to support it but the contemptible character of<sup>2</sup>—